

What Shall I Do? – Part 5

Legalism and the Christian Life

Luke 10:25-37; Coast Community Church; Pastor Earl Miles; 7-16-17

Introduction

Anchor Points

- ☐ Good News: Jesus is an able and willing Savior for you and me!
- ☐ Guilt: Rest in Jesus and His righteousness alone.
- ☐ Good: Hope in God for your help and happiness.
- ☐ Guide: Pursue love by trusting and obeying God's Word.

Review

- ☐ A legal spirit relates to God and others on the basis of law, not grace: focus is on 'what I do, not what God has done.' It says, 'Follow the rules and you get blessing; break the rules and you get punished.'
 - *And a lawyer stood up and put Him to the test – Luke 10:25*
- ☐ A legal spirit thinks it must earn God's acceptance and/or His blessings.
 - *saying, "Teacher, what shall I do to inherit eternal life?" – Luke 10:25*
- ☐ A legal spirit reads the Bible in such a way that God is viewed as a demanding Law-Giver rather than a gracious Father and thinks it can obligate God to give His acceptance and/or blessing.
 - *And He said to him, "What is written in the Law? How does it read to you?" – Luke 10:26*
- ☐ A legal spirit can think it deserves God's acceptance and/or blessing by using crafty legal maneuvers.
 - *But wishing to justify himself, he said to Jesus, "And who is my neighbor?" – Luke 10:29*

Question

- ☐ *Why did the Lord Jesus tell the Story of the Good Samaritan? What is the point?*

The Story of the Good Samaritan was meant to destroy the lawyer's wrong view of the Law and compel him to rely only on the goodness and grace of God in Jesus.

1. This story highlights how impossible it is to fulfill the Law.

The best of us, 'Priests' and 'Levites,' quickly walk past opportunities to show sacrificial grace to our enemies ('those who don't deserve it').

Luke 6:27-36

2. This story highlights the kind of life that becomes possible once we despair of our own righteousness and rest, by faith alone, in the righteousness of Christ alone, rejoicing in the grace and goodness of God.

Once we are free from the demands of the Law, we are enabled by the Spirit to obey the Law, though imperfectly yet truly (from our heart).

Romans 7:1-4; 8:1-4

3. This story highlights the glory and grace of God in Christ.

The Good Samaritan is a picture of Christ graciously and sovereignly loving His enemies, though they are dead and unresponsive to Him.

The basic problem with a legal spirit is unbelief in the goodness and grace of God.

John 1:9-18

Concluding Application

This unbelief in the goodness and grace of God results in two kinds of a legal spirit:

- ☐ A legal spirit can make us joyless rule-keepers who want God's blessing but not God.
- ☐ A legal spirit can make us lawless rebels who demand God's acceptance and blessing 'unconditionally.'

A legal spirit, exemplified in the Pharisees which Jesus condemned, cannot love God and man:

- ☐ Because it must punish the God who does not follow the rules and give what we think we deserve.
- ☐ Because it must punish the person who does not follow the rules and give us what we think we deserve.

The only hope to love is to rest in Jesus and hope in God, on the basis of grace not law!